

How to use the Net Access unsolicited e-mail filter

Last revised 9705.04 JDF

May 4 97.

NOTE: In order to make it harder for spammers to bypass these filters, only Net Access subscribers running Lynx on one of our unix machines can view the filter files directly from this page. If you are not a spammer and would like a copy of the filtering rules we use, please feel free to e-mail us and ask.

THE BASICS

To use the spamkill filters, just add the following lines to your existing .procmailrc file:

```
INCLUDERC=/etc/export/procmail/spamkill/rc.pre
INCLUDERC=/etc/export/procmail/spamkill/rc.main
```

If you do not yet have a .procmailrc file, there is an example one in /etc/export/procmail/rc.example which you can copy and use by typing:

```
cp /etc/export/procmail/rc.example ~/.procmailrc
```

Be advised if you are creating a new .procmailrc, you do need to set the permissions correctly. Type

```
chmod 644 .procmailrc
```

at the unix prompt.

SPECIAL OPTIONS

Default: /dev/null

The default (set in rc.pre) is to have procmail simply file the message away in /dev/null, thus erasing it forever.

\$RESBOUNCE: "Message not deliverable"

Some folks want to do something more. One common response is to return a standard sendmail bounce with a "message not deliverable" error. This should cause the spammer to automatically remove you from the list, but that is certainly not guaranteed. To try this, add the following line between the rc.pre and rc.main INCLUDERC directives:

```
RESPONSE="$RESBOUNCE"
```

NOTE (May 4th): \$RESBOUNCE does not appear to be working correctly at the moment. We are working to determine if it can be fixed.

Save it elsewhere

If you're worried about losing important mail but still want to filter spam, you can save all the filtered messages for later perusal by adding the line:

```
RESPONSE=$HOME/mail/filtered
```

The above example will save the message in a Pine/Elm-style mail folder called `filtered` in your mail directory.

\$RESRETURN: "Unsolicited advertisement returned unread."

NOTE: (May 4) \$RESRETURN does not work, so we're removing it. You may be able to create something similar on your own (see below.)

Roll your own

If you know Unix fairly well, you can create something similar on your own, sending back whatever response you like. Take a look at the `rc.pre` file to see what ours does, then read the `procmailrc(5)`, `procmailex(5)`, and `formail(1)` man pages for more of what you can do.

RC.QUESTIONABLE

We've also created a file which includes procmail recipies that might block more than most folks would really want blocked -- for example, many of these recipies check the body of the message, not just the headers.

If you want to use these, add the following line to your `.procmailrc` file, anywhere after the line for `rc.pre`:

```
INCLUDERC=/etc/export/procmail/spamkill/rc.questionable
```

ADDING SITES TO BLOCK

If you get an unsolicited advertisement via e-mail from somebody and it looks like they're

gonna be sending you more, forward the message *including all headers* to [<spamkill@netaxs.com>](mailto:spamkill@netaxs.com) (if you do not include all of the headers, we may not be able to correctly determine where the message truly originated. Likewise, please do not use the "bounce" feature in some mail programs, because that will modify the headers somewhat.)

Within a day or two, one of the Net Access spamnoscenti will review the complaint and determine whether or not it should be included in this file.

But, don't just tell us and forget about it. The only way these misuses of the Internet will be stopped is if those doing it decide that it's not worth the trouble -- and one of the best ways to convince them of that is to send them complaints.

You can also block things yourself, without having us add them to the public filter. This is a good way to stop that old ex-boyfriend from sending you lengthy diatribes about his crooked manhood. Take a look at rc.main for examples, as well as the procmailrc and procmailex man pages.

And if all else fails, e-mail support.

What does procmail do?

As each mail message addressed to you is received by the system, the computer looks in your home directory for a file named `.procmailrc` and if this file exists scans it to see if the mail message meets any of `.procmailrc`'s filter criteria are met. If **procmail** finds that the mail message meets one of the filter criteria in `.procmailrc` it redirects the message according to the filter criteria's action.

For example, if you were to receive a message from someone with the words *Bowling league* in the Subject line of the message, and your `.procmailrc` file contained the following lines:

```
:0:
* ^Subject.*bowling league
  bowling-mail
```

then that message would be put immediately into the mail folder `bowling-mail`. Note that you would not receive a message saying that you had new mail because the message never reaches your system mailbox.

A sample `.procmailrc` file is available with several examples.

[[Go to next section on filtering e-mail](#)]

[[Help home page](#)]

Help pages maintainer: help-page@math.uiuc.edu

(Last changed: 11-Apr-1996)

Specifying filter criteria

To enable your account to filter e-mail, you specify desired filtering actions you want **procmail** to take in your `.procmailrc` which is kept in your home directory; if you do not have such a file, run an editor and create one.

Each filter entry in `.procmailrc` should have the following format:

```
:0:  
* ^From.*owner-emtex  
emtex-mail
```

The `:0:` is needed for ? The second line is the filter match condition. In the above example, `* ^From.*owner-emtex` matches any mail message with a line that starts with "From" and is followed (possibly with other characters intervening) by the string "owner-emtex". So the following lines would match:

```
From: 12937813@sdjfh.ewoir. owner-emtex  
From: owner-emtex@jj.uiuc.edu
```

[\[Go to next section on filtering e-mail\]](#)

[\[Help home page\]](#)

Help pages maintainer: help-page@math.uiuc.edu

(Last changed: 14-Nov-1995)

Setting up your account to filter e-mail

All you have to do is create a `.procmailrc` file and put filter criteria in it. The system takes care of the rest.

[[Go to next section on filtering e-mail](#)]

[[Help home page](#)]

Help pages maintainer: help-page@math.uiuc.edu

(Last changed: 10-17-95)

http://www.math.uiuc.edu/consult/use_system/email/filter.html

WEST

Generate Collection

Print

L40: Entry 10 of 12

File: USPT

Jun 6, 2000

US-PAT-NO: 6072942

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6072942 A

**** See image for Certificate of Correction ****TITLE: System and method of electronic mail filtering using interconnected nodes

DATE-ISSUED: June 6, 2000

INT-CL: [07] G06 F 13/00

US-CL-ISSUED: 395/200.36; 395/187.01

US-CL-CURRENT: 709/206; 713/201

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 395/200.34, 395/200.35, 395/200.31, 395/200.37, 395/200.32, 395/754, 395/759, 395/12, 395/672, 395/680, 395/186, 395/187.01, 395/200.8, 345/356

un authorize list

WEST**End of Result Set**☐

Generate Collection

Print

L28: Entry 12 of 12

File: USPT

Oct 20, 1998

US-PAT-NO: 5826269

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5826269 A

**** See image for Certificate of Correction ****

TITLE: Electronic mail interface for a network server

DATE-ISSUED: October 20, 1998

INT-CL: [06] G06 F 17/30

US-CL-ISSUED: 707/10; 707/2, 707/3, 707/5, 707/7, 707/9, 707/104, 707/500, 707/526, 395/200.01, 395/200.03, 395/200.8, 395/200.11, 395/292, 395/500

US-CL-CURRENT: 707/10; 703/27, 707/104.1, 707/2, 707/3, 707/5, 707/7, 707/9, 709/206, 709/250, 710/112, 715/500, 715/526

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 395/600, 395/650, 395/200.8, 395/200.01, 395/200.11, 395/292, 395/500, 395/200.03, 395/200.3, 395/800.01, 707/10, 707/2, 707/3, 707/500, 707/526, 707/5, 707/9, 707/7, 707/104